

**EdBlast! — ALL  
Number 70  
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### **Message from the State Superintendent of Education**

Six administrators have been tapped by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators as Principals of the Year.

The honorees are: Dr. Kristi Woodall, Secondary Principal of the Year, Union High School, Union County; Marlene Davis, Assistant Principal of the Year, Gaffney High School, Cherokee County; Marisa Vickers, Middle School Principal of the Year, Hand Middle School, Richland School District One; Polli Vaughn Sullivan Middle School, York School District Three; Jerome A. Hudson Palmetto Elementary School, Anderson School District One; and Sandra Moore, Jesse S. Bobo Elementary School, Spartanburg School District Six .

I have always said that if we want South Carolina to have the most effective schools in the nation, they must be run by leaders who are skilled change agents—persons who create positive energy in their schools. Individually and collectively, these leaders and their colleagues across the state are creating schools that are second to none. The State Department of Education joins SCASA in congratulating these outstanding administrators.

<http://www.scasa.org>

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### **1. Education Department releases end-of-course test results**

South Carolina students improved their scores last year on end-of-course algebra testing mandated by the state's Education Accountability Act, according to results released today by the State Department of Education. The agency also released first-year "baseline" scores for three other courses: English, biology and physical science. For complete results, visit:

[www.myschools.com/tracks/testscores/eoc/2005/](http://www.myschools.com/tracks/testscores/eoc/2005/).

### **2. School to be highlighted in national environmental publication**

Pickens Middle School is one of eight schools nationwide – one of only two middle schools – that is being recognized for its efforts to integrate environmental themes with instruction. To read more, go to:

<http://www.myschools.com/news/more.cfm?articleID=608>

### **3. Seneca volunteer receives state award**

Seneca resident Bonnie Moses has been recognized by a state program that honors volunteers who provide exemplary service to youth and families. For more information, go to:

<http://www.myschools.com/news/more.cfm?articleID=607>

### **4. Commission to host Paying for College Day**

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will host Paying for College Day 2006 on Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spartanburg Technical College, Richland County Public Library (Assembly Street, Columbia), and Trident Technical College in Charleston. College financial aid officers and other financial aid experts will assist students in filling out financial aid forms and learning about federal, state, and private sources of financial aid. For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.scstudentloan.org/>

### **5. Teacher grant program supports instruction**

The EIA Teacher Grant program supports the improvement of classroom instructional practices and procedures. Grant proposals may be written for projects that support instructional activities and implementation of South Carolina's curriculum standards. To read more, go to:

<http://www.myschools.com/superintendent/grants/eia/default.cfm>

#### **6. Chinese principals seeking U.S. partners**

Educators are invited to participate in the China–U.S. Conference on Education Leadership Program, to be held in Beijing June 27-30. For information about participating, contact Global Interactions at 602-906-8886 or visit:

<http://www.globalinteractions.org>

#### **7. Assistive Technology Expo planned**

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Expo 2006 will be held Thursday, March 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 803-935-5263 or visit:

<http://www.sc.edu/scatp>

#### **8. Spearman featured “Speaking on Schools” guest**

"Speaking of Schools" is a radio program supported by the State Department of Education and broadcast at 6:30 Monday evenings over ETV radio stations in Greenville/Spartanburg (90.1), Columbia, (91.3), and Charleston (89.3). The half-hour show is hosted by Doug Keel and features various guests. Molly Spearman, executive director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, will be the featured guest on Monday, January 30. On February 6 and 13, audio highlights from "Finding Money for College," a program produced by the State Department of Education and SCETV for high school juniors and seniors and their parents, will be featured.

#### **9. Workshop links economics and children’s books**

Tired of huffing and puffing through economics? An all-day workshop designed to help teachers in grades K-5 learn how to introduce children to economics and history through popular children’s books is scheduled for February 10 at the South Carolina ETV Telecommunications Center in Columbia. Lori Dickes of Clemson University’s Center for Economic Education is the presenter. After the workshop, teachers will be able to integrate economic lessons into history, math, language arts, and other content areas. There is a \$25 fee. For additional information, visit:

<http://www.sceconomics.org>

#### **10. Praxis workshops planned**

The Palmetto State Teachers Association will offer Praxis I and Praxis II workshops Saturday, February 25, at Lexington Town Hall. Praxis I is from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., and

the cost is \$10. Praxis II will be from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for PSTA members and \$20 for nonmembers. To register, call or call 800-849-7782 or visit:

<http://www.palmettoteachers.org>

#### **11. School Health training planned**

"Leadership for School Wellness Policy: Making School Health Councils Work" is this year's theme for the School Health Leadership Academy. The two days of training (February 9-10) will focus on best practices and procedures in district wellness policy planning. This training is intended for school district staff, building administrators, school nurses, and any other school personnel who serve on the Coordinated School Health Advisory Council. The deadline for registrations is February 3. For more information, contact Dr. Christine Beyer ([cbeyer@state.sc.us](mailto:cbeyer@state.sc.us)) at 803-734-2782.

#### **12. Choice Voice nominations open**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Children's Voice Awards. This is an opportunity to reward media outlets and journalists that have reported on children's issues in a responsible, fact-driven manner. The deadline for entries is February 10, and the awards ceremony is March 23. For information, contact Kelly Graham, at Voices for South Carolina's Children at 803-256-4670, ext. 227, or visit:

<http://www.scchildren.org>

#### **13. 2006 African American history calendar is available**

The 2006 South Carolina African American History Calendar is available on line. This resource has been reorganized and now offers a section especially for educators. Each month an African-American with South Carolina roots who has made important contributions to our state, nation, and world is recognized. There are lesson plans available for each honoree based on the state's academic standards, and website links are categorized (African American Leaders, Genealogy, Arts and Culture, and the Civil Rights Movement). February's honoree is South Carolina state representative Joe Brown. To read more, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

#### **14. Oversight Committee has free publications**

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee offers free publications to groups interested in encouraging, supporting, and sustaining the work of educators. The publications are: "Tips to Help Your Children Succeed In Schools" (for parents),

available in English and Spanish; “Tips for Communities To Help Schools Succeed,” and “Tips for Businesses To Help Schools Succeed.” They can all be viewed on line at:

<http://www.sceoc.com/eocpbctips-publications.htm>.

#### **15. School Improvement Council has resources**

The South Carolina School Improvement Council was created to provide training and services to school improvement councils statewide in support of their work to improve public education in each community. “Understanding Education Funding - the Basics,” “Understanding Education Funding - Beyond the Basics,” and “Your Voice Matters,” a program on advocacy, are just a few of the resources that the Council has available. For additional information, contact Jean M. Norman ([jnorman@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:jnorman@gwm.sc.edu)) at 803-777-7658 or 1-800-868-2232. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic>

#### **This Issue’s Quotation**

“What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### **EdBlast! welcomes submissions**

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to [jfairnot@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:jfairnot@sde.state.sc.us) or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

#### **Spread the word about EdBlast!**

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://www.myschools.com/edblast>.

Thanks for sharing!